



**Director of
Central
Intelligence**

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OCPAS/CIG

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National Intelligence Daily

***Monday
26 July 1982***

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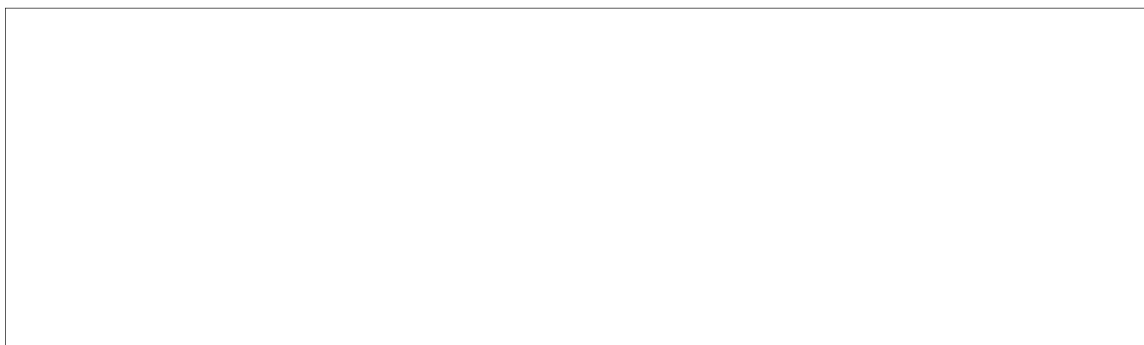
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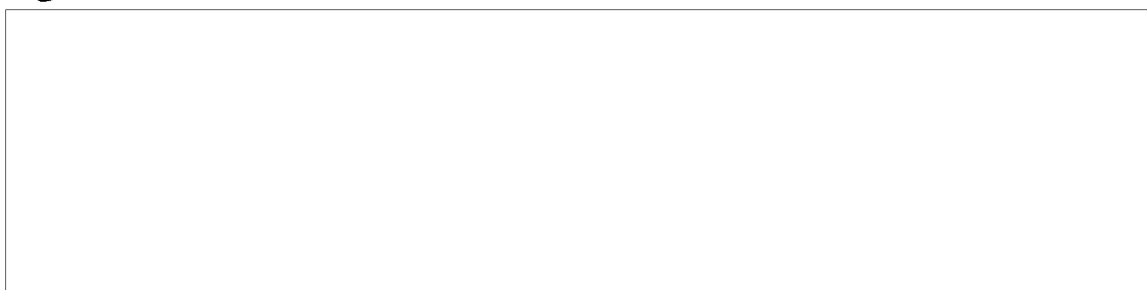
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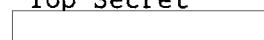
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ZIMBABWE: Violence Intensifies

An attack yesterday on Zimbabwe's main airbase near Gweru damaged 12 planes--over 20 percent of the air force's combat aircraft--including four new jet trainers that arrived earlier this month from the UK as the first installment of a highly publicized program to upgrade Zimbabwe's air defense. Security forces are still searching north of Bulawayo for the six tourists, including two American citizens, who were kidnaped Friday by antigovernment dissidents. The kidnapers, former members of Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union, have threatened to kill the hostages unless two jailed top military aides of Nkomo are released. [redacted]

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Comment: The attack on the airbase and the kidnaping depart considerably from past dissident actions which have consisted primarily of acts of banditry and isolated killings. Prime Minister Mugabe's initial reaction to the attack was to blame the South Africans, acting either by themselves or with the ex-ZAPU dissidents. Nkomo has disclaimed any responsibility for the kidnaping and called for the hostages' release, but the government's embarrassment over the incident may lead to further actions against him. [redacted]

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